



Down in the woodland, Social Care Elf yawns and stretches.... *'Well, that was a lovely, long sleep'* she thinks to herself. *'I'd best catch up with Mental Elf and see what's been happening while I've been in hibernation.'*

The National Elf Service is planning to wake up the social care elf and her friends and get them back to work for the new academic year... We believe social work and social care needs to understand and keep up to date with the latest research even more than before!

...and to do this... we need you!

Calling all past, present and potential elves...

Are you.... A Social Worker, social care worker, policy maker, academic, researcher or educator?

Are you... a newly qualified professional or student?

Are you... a post-qualifying student?

Are you... a person with lived experience of any area of social care (or the supporter of someone who has)?





- ✓ Do you enjoy reading research articles and thinking about how they apply to practice?
- ✓ Do you enjoy writing about social work and social care research?
- ✓ Do you want to develop your research into practice skills but not sure where to start?
- ✓ Do you want to develop your knowledge and skills, but not sure where to start?
- ✓ Do you already have research skills but do not have the opportunity to use them in your daily practice?
- ✓ Newly qualified and students - do you need evidence of PCF 9 and not sure how to achieve it?
- ✓ Do you need evidence of KSS 12(d) for adult social workers or KSS 10 for child and family social workers?

Want to volunteer, know more or talk to one of the current elves?

Email us at SCElf@dcc-i.co.uk

Click here for a short video (6 mins, 22 seconds) for more information about the National Elf Service and its aims.





Frequently Asked Elf Questions

Where can I find the Social Care Elf?

The social care elf lives in the woodland with the other elves that make up the [National Elf Service](#).

The Social Care Elf has her own area of the woodland here - [The Social Care Elf](#). She has not been regularly active for a few years, u now starting to awaken from her hibernation and is really excited to once again join her fellow elves and support evidence-based and research informed practice in social work and social care.

Who are the elves?

The social care elf is being relaunched as a partnership between the [National Elf Service](#) and [DCC-i](#) (a social work consultancy organisation taking the lead in relaunching and maintaining the social care elf service) and together we have decided to bring the social care elf out of hibernation and get her ready for the new academic year.

Past and current elves have come from the full range of health and social care settings. Practice, academia, policy, activist groups, and education to mention just a few. In fact, hundreds of people have contributed to our elf blogs over the last few years. The National Elf Service is a real team effort, and we are always open to new people joining the woodland clan.

If you like what we're doing and think you could add value, or want to develop your skills to join us down in the woodland, please drop us a line and say hello at SCElf@dcc-i.co.uk

What is the role of the elves?

The elves read a research paper and then provide a critique and summary of its findings, with a focus on how the paper informs and/or impacts on social work or social care practice.



While the woodland crew manage the process, elves can suggest papers or volunteer to take one that has been identified for review by the crew. Each elf tells us what their areas of interest or expertise are, and papers are matched accordingly (we will ask you to fill in a short form for us as part of the process).

Once you've read the paper, we will ask you to write a blog piece identifying the strengths and weaknesses of the research and the key impacts and criticisms of it. Don't worry we have templates, examples, and other tools to help as well as lots of support around the campfire.

What support will be offered?

Don't worry if you have never done anything like this before, we will provide support and training to help you develop your skills, and feedback will be offered both during and after you have written your blog.

All new elves will be buddied up with a seasoned elf to help them get used to the process and make the most of the role as a learning opportunity.



We are also planning to hold a workshop later in the summer for past, present, and future elves to make sure everyone is kept up to date and has the information and support they need to do their best elf-ing.



What time commitment will it need?

The social care elf is a labour of love and based on the belief that in social work and social care evidence-based practice is a vital tool and one which as a group of professional peers we have a role in promoting. There is no minimum time commitment and involvement is on a voluntary basis (although it does provide you with evidence of CPD for all elves, and demonstrates PCF 5 & 9, and several KSS areas for those who are qualified social workers).



The amount of time you can commit to the process is totally up to you, we ask that if you agree to read and blog about a paper that this is turned around in a maximum of 4 weeks to ensure we are always up to date with our reviews.

The time it takes to read and process the information will depend on how you work and the time you allocate to the task as much as anything, some of the current elves will be happy to talk this through with you as part of the process.



Elf
Novice



Elf
Apprentice



Elf
Professional



Elf
Professor



Elf
Guru

Want to talk to one of the elves for more information, or go ahead and volunteer to blog as an elf and join us down in the woodland, drop us an email at SCElf@dcc-i.co.uk